



## Six climate change-related events in the United States accounted for about \$14 billion in lost lives and health costs

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### Abstract:

The future health costs associated with predicted climate change-related events such as hurricanes, heat waves, and floods are projected to be enormous. This article estimates the health costs associated with six climate change-related events that struck the United States between 2000 and 2009. The six case studies came from categories of climate change-related events projected to worsen with continued global warming—ozone pollution, heat waves, hurricanes, infectious disease outbreaks, river flooding, and wildfires. We estimate that the health costs exceeded \$14 billion, with 95 percent due to the value of lives lost prematurely. Actual health care costs were an estimated \$740 million. This reflects more than 760,000 encounters with the health care system. Our analysis provides scientists and policy makers with a methodology to use in estimating future health costs related to climate change and highlights the growing need for public health preparedness.

**Source:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2011.0229>

### Resource Description

#### Early Warning System:

resource focus on systems used to warn populations of high temperatures, extreme weather, or other elements of climate change to prevent harm to health

A focus of content

#### Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Extreme Weather Event, Precipitation, Sea Level Rise, Temperature

**Air Pollution:** Interaction with Temperature, Ozone, Other Air Pollution

**Air Pollution (other):** Smoke

**Extreme Weather Event:** Flooding, Hurricanes/Cyclones, Wildfires

**Temperature:** Extreme Heat, Fluctuations

#### Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

None or Unspecified

## **Geographic Location:** ☒

resource focuses on specific location

United States

## **Health Impact:** ☒

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Infectious Disease, Injury, Morbidity/Mortality, Respiratory Effect, Other Health Impact

**Infectious Disease:** Vectorborne Disease

**Vectorborne Disease:** Mosquito-borne Disease

**Mosquito-borne Disease:** West Nile Virus

**Respiratory Effect:** Asthma

**Other Health Impact:** Hospitalizations; Emergency department visits; Outpatient visits; Heat stress

## **Mitigation/Adaptation:** ☒

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

## **Model/Methodology:** ☒

type of model used or methodology development is a focus of resource

Cost/Economic

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

## **Population of Concern:** ☒

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children, Elderly

**Other Vulnerable Population:** Pre-existing medical conditions

## **Resource Type:** ☒

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

## **Timescale:** ☒

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

## **Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:** ☒

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content